

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 EB-07 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /056 W
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R 221131Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7413
INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1383

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, EMIN, CT, CA

SUBJECT: GOCAR/SCED DISPUTE

REF: OTTAWA 2970 (NOTAL)

DDI ACTING DIRECTOR COPPERMAN, WHO IS LEAVING FOR PARIS MONDAY FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH JOLIS, HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH MOST RECENT CAR DIAMOND PRODUCTION STATISTICS. IN FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1976 PRODUCTION WAS 158,000 CARATS. IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 1975 IT WAS 194,000 CARATS OF WHICH SCED ACCOUNTED FOR 38,600 CARATS. THUS, RESULT OF GOCAR ACTIONS AGAINST SCED IS TOTAL LOSS OF SCED PRODUCTION. COPPERMAN COMMENTED THAT THIS FACT MAY NOT HAVE BECOME APPARENT TO GOCAR SINCE DIAMOND EARNINGS ARE UP OVER 1975 AS A RESULT OF INCREASED PRICES AND CHANGE IN FRANC-DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE.

2. COPPERMAN IS OF THE IMPRESSION THAT JOLIS MAY WISH TO USE THESE STATISTICS TO URGE GOCAR TO PERMIT SOME FORM OF RESUMED SCED ACTIVITIES. IN THIS REGARD COMINCO'S PROPOSAL TO LIQUIDATE SCED GOES BEYOND RATHER OBLIQUE REQUEST TO BE ALLOWED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION IN ROGERS' LETTER.

3. RE PARA 2(E) REFTTEL, EMBASSY REPORTED (BANGUI 0953 NOTALL) CREATION OF FIRST ARABIAN CORPORATION SUBSIDIARY
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TO TAKE OVER ALL MINING OPERATIONS IN CAR. AS FAR AS

WE AND COPPERMAN ARE AWARE NO FURTHER ACTION HAS BEEN
TAKEN TO GIVE REALITY TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. IN FACT
COPPERMAN THINKS THAT DEAL MAY FALL THROUGH, BECAUSE OF
ARABS LACK OF EXPERTISE AND RECENT GOCAR DECREE THAT
DIAMOND COMPANIES MUST INVEST AT LEAST ONE MILLION CFA
(DOLS 400,000) IN CONSTRUCTION OF AN HEADQUARTERS BUILDING.
(DDI INCIDENTALLY WHICH HAS ITS OWN BUILDING IS NOT AFFECTED)
COPPERMAN SAYS SEVERAL OTHER POTENTIAL DIAMOND INVESTORS
HAVE BEEN FIRGHTENED OFF BY THIS DECREE.
QUAINTON

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